

Interior Appropriations

The Fiscal Year 2002 Interior Appropriations bill was signed into law on November 5, 2001. The legislation provides \$19.1 billion in discretionary funding for all Interior Department agencies, including the National Park Service, the Agriculture Department's Forest Service, the Energy Department's conservation and energy research programs, and the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. This year's bill also includes \$400 million to meet emergency wildfire needs.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Hinchey requested and secured \$8.48 million for the following projects:

- **\$5.63 million for the FDR Home.** The bill provides funding for the construction of a visitors' center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home at Hyde Park. (Dutchess County)
- **\$1.8 million for the New York City Watershed.** Hinchey secured \$1.8 million for the protection of and economic development in the New York City Watershed. (Delaware, Sullivan and Ulster counties)
- **\$900,000 for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area** to fund its grant program for communities and non-profit organizations to preserve significant sites in the Hudson Valley, perform public outreach and education, and promote tourism and community-based economic development. (Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester and Ulster counties.)
- **\$150,000 for the State Theatre.** Hinchey successfully requested funding of \$150,000 for Historic Ithaca to help complete the historic restoration of the State Theatre (Tompkins County).

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **\$1.32 billion for land conservation and preservation,** a \$121 million increase, including \$429 million for federal land acquisition and \$144 million for state land acquisition through the Land and Water Conservation Fund; \$30 million for the Save America's Treasures program; \$36 million for urban parks; and \$44.5 million for historic preservation.
- **\$275 million for weatherization and state energy grants,** to help improve the energy efficiency of the homes of elderly and low-income families. This is an increase of \$84 million over last year's funding level.
- **Restores cuts in energy research, and increases funding to \$913 million for energy conservation.**

Agriculture Appropriations

The Fiscal Year 2002 Agriculture Appropriations bill was enacted on November 28, 2001. The legislation provides \$16.01 billion in discretionary funding for Agriculture Department agencies, including agriculture research, rural and community development programs, and local Farm Service agencies.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Hinchey successfully offered amendments to fund the following local projects:

- **\$75 million for apple growers.** The bill provides \$75 million in emergency aid nationwide for apple growers, who have faced more than \$1.5 billion in economic losses over the past five years. New York's apple growers have also faced severe weather damage for the last several growing seasons. Hinchey initially secured \$150 million in the House version of the bill, but the funding was cut in half by a joint House-Senate conference committee after the Senate failed to include any emergency funding in its bill (statewide).
- **Secured language to expedite broadband access in the Hudson Valley.** Hinchey inserted language into the bill granting a regulatory waiver for Hudson Valley DataNet, which will allow the company to continue deploying broadband communications service to the region using the \$10 million USDA loan it was awarded in 2001. The waiver also allows DataNet to apply, on an expedited basis, for additional funding to continue its efforts to expand broadband service (Ulster County).
- **Preserved funding for the continued administration of the American Heritage Rivers program on the Hudson and Upper Susquehanna rivers.** The bill would have eliminated funding for the River Navigators, the USDA employees who oversee these two programs, but Hinchey secured language in the conference committee that maintained funding for their positions.

Hinchey requested and secured funding for the following local projects:

- **\$650,000 for the Watershed Agricultural Council.** The bill earmarks funding to implement a multi-year agreement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Watershed Agricultural Council of Walton, NY. A portion of this funding will be designated for perpetual stewardship grants for easements purchased by the WAC's Whole Farm Easement Program (Ulster, Delaware, Sullivan counties).
- **\$8.25 million for rabies control.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to issue an emergency declaration with regard to rabies in New York and six other states, and to provide an additional \$8.25 million for rabies control efforts (statewide).
- **\$100,000 in aid for farmers' markets.** The bill provides \$100,000 to fund a pilot program in New York to implement wireless and other innovative Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) systems that will allow farmers and farmers' markets to accept WIC coupons and food stamps (statewide).

Agriculture Appropriations (continued)

CORNELL UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

- **\$7.96 million for research through the Agriculture Research Service.** Earmarks for Cornell University include:
 - \$1.2 million to develop bioinformatic tools and databases to support plant genomics research
 - \$800,000 for floriculture and nursery crop research
 - \$40,000 for golden nematode research
 - \$400,000 for grape rootstock research
 - \$480,000 for biotechnology risk assessment for vegetables
 - \$4 million for plant germplasm research
 - \$240,000 for purple loosestrife research
 - \$800,000 for the Binational Agricultural Research and Development Program (BARD)
- **\$7.34 million in special state grants through the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).** Earmarks for Cornell University include:
 - \$339,000 for agriculture telecommunications
 - \$489,000 for apple fire blight research (divided with Michigan State University)
 - \$391,000 for environmental research
 - \$222,000 for environmental risk factors and cancer research
 - \$800,000 for food safety research consortium
 - \$104,000 for generic commodity promotions, research and evaluation
 - \$609,000 for human nutrition research
 - \$558,000 for livestock and dairy policy research (to be split with Texas A & M University)
 - \$343,000 for national beef cattle genetic evaluation consortium
 - \$1.6 million for the viticulture consortium (conducted between Cornell and the Universities of California and Pennsylvania)
 - \$1.568 million for potato research (to be split with a consortium of other universities)

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **\$1.098 billion for the Agriculture Research Service,** an increase of \$122 million over last year, and an increase of \$152 million above the President's request. The ARS funds numerous research projects at Cornell University.
- **\$66 million increase for conservation programs,** bringing FY 02 funding to \$779 million for farm and wetland conservation initiatives.

VA-HUD Appropriations

The Fiscal Year 2002 Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill was signed into law on November 26, 2001. The bill, which allocates discretionary funding for the VA, HUD, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Science Foundation and NASA, among other agencies, provides \$85.4 billion in discretionary funds.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Hinchey requested and secured \$300,000 for the following projects:

- **\$200,000 for Saugerties beautification plan.** Hinchey secured a \$200,000 earmark for the Village of Saugerties to contribute to its beautification plan, specifically to replace and improve streetlights (Ulster County).
- **\$100,000 for the Endicott Performing Arts Center.** The bill provides \$100,000 to continue historic preservation work on the Lyric Theater (Broome County).

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **\$1.05 million increase for veterans' health care,** above the President's request. However, the joint House-Senate conference committee dropped a plan, supported by Hinchey, to add \$300 million to the bill to rehabilitate VA medical facilities.
- **\$128 million increase for the Veterans Benefit Administration to expedite veterans' benefit claims.** Local veterans have had to endure months and sometimes years of delays to receive the benefits they are due.
- **Funding for 28,000 new Section 8 vouchers,** to provide access to low-income housing for needy families. In our area, counties have hundreds of families on waiting lists for Section 8 vouchers. The bill increases funding for Section 8 by \$1.7 billion over last year.
- **\$363 million increase for the National Science Foundation,** an increase of 9% over last year, giving the agency its largest budget to date. The NSF funds important research programs at Cornell and Binghamton universities.
- **\$50 million increase for FEMA's firefighting program,** the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which provides grants to local and volunteer companies for training, equipment and safety programs. This marks a 50% increase since the program's establishment last year, in which Hinchey was instrumental.
- **\$25 million for a pre-disaster mitigation program** that has benefited the Town of Dryden and Village of Waverly. The program, which is administered by FEMA, was previously known as Project Impact.

Transportation Appropriations

The Fiscal Year 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill was enacted on December 18, 2001. The legislation provides for \$59.58 billion in spending for all Transportation Department agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Hinchey requested and secured \$10.8 million for the following projects:

- **\$6.7 million to Stewart International Airport** for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art air traffic control tower. Hinchey had previously earmarked \$1 million for the control tower in the 2001 appropriations bill (Orange County).
- **\$2 million for the Binghamton Bus Depot.** The Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Authority intends to construct an inter-modal transit facility to bring together local and national bus lines with rail service in a centralized hub (Broome County).
- **\$624,000 for the Ithaca Bus Depot.** This earmark completes the necessary funding for the downtown transportation center proposed by the Tompkins County Area Transit System. Hinchey has secured a total of \$1.7 million for the project in previous fiscal years, bringing the total federal contribution to \$2.3 million (Tompkins County).
- **\$500,000 for Sullivan County bus improvements,** through the implementation of the Countywide Coordinated Public Transportation Services. Funding will help the county purchase buses, infrastructure and facilities for new public transportation services specifically targeted to meeting the needs of the disabled and those moving from welfare to work (Sullivan County).
- **\$500,000 for improved bus service in Broome County.** The bill provides \$500,000 for Broome County Transit through the federal Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program, which will help the county provide expanded service to Binghamton's South and West End corridors (Broome County).
- **\$400,000 for improved bus service in Sullivan County** through the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program, allowing the expansion of bus service to areas in the county with a high concentration of welfare recipients and low-income individuals (Sullivan County).
- **\$130,000 for Tompkins County's Vital Communities Initiative,** which will be used to develop criteria to guide municipalities in meeting countywide goals to limit urban sprawl and high-density development (Tompkins County).

OTHER INITIATIVES

- Most Transportation Department agencies received significant increases in their budgets with this legislation, including: a six percent increase for the FAA, an eight percent increase for the FTA and a 12 percent increase for the Coast Guard. These increases largely reflect increased security demands on our nation's transportation systems.

Transportation Appropriations (continued)

- **\$292 million for aviation security**, including bomb detection systems and compliance test activities.
- **\$20 million to help expand service to small airports**, a new program that may address this persistent economic development issue for small upstate New York cities.

Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for the 2002 Fiscal Year was completed by Congress on December 20, 2001 and is awaiting the president's signature. The bill provides for \$111.9 billion in discretionary spending for programs in the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Hinchey requested and secured \$1.3 million for the following projects:

- **\$500,000 to Kingston Hospital**, to help cover the cost of expanding its emergency department and diagnostic imaging center, both components of the hospital's ongoing capital improvement project (Ulster County).
- **\$500,000 to Ellenville Regional Hospital** to help pay for the construction and equipment costs of the hospital's planned new emergency room. Its original emergency room had to be relocated due to patient safety concerns (Ulster County).
- **\$105,000 for the Four County Library System** to upgrade the technological capability of its "Cybermobile," a library-owned vehicle that regularly travels to communities in the service area, offering a library and computers with internet access. The federal funding will allow Four County to establish a distance-learning program linked with area health providers (Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego counties).
- **\$100,000 for the Paleontological Research Institute** for earth science education programming for its Museum of the Earth, a state-of-the-art, specimen-based interactive exhibit on the history and diversity of life on earth.
- **\$100,000 to the Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen** for the preparation of the Byrdcliffe Centennial Exhibition, which will open at three sites in Woodstock before traveling to other venues.

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **Increased the maximum Pell Grant award to \$4000 per year**, a \$250 per year increase over last year.
- **\$154 million increase for after-school programs** that help keep at-risk kids out of trouble and involved in safe, educational activities while their parents are at work.
- **\$2 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**, which helps elderly and low-income families pay their heating bills.
- **6.3 percent increase for the Social Security Administration to improve services**, particularly to improve the efficiency of its customer service and appeal offices.

Defense Appropriations

The Defense Appropriations bill for the 2002 Fiscal Year was completed by Congress on December 20, 2001 and is awaiting the president's signature. The bill, which funds all discretionary spending activities of the Department of Defense, provides \$317.4 billion.

LOCAL CONTRACTS:

LOCKHEED MARTIN SYSTEMS INTEGRATION – OWEGO

Hinchey secured \$168.8 million in additional funding for the following programs, for which Lockheed Martin Systems Integration – Owego is the prime contractor:

- **An additional \$159.1 million for the Navy's SH-60R Multi-mission Helicopter program, including \$10.1 million for procurement,** above the amount requested in the president's budget. The SH-60R program is vital to meeting the war-fighting needs of tactical rotary wing aircraft operating in the littoral environment. The increase funds the acquisition of additional helicopters in this fiscal year. The Chief of Naval Operations has identified the need for additional aircraft as a top priority for the Navy.
- **A \$2.5 million increase in procurement of A-10 Aircraft for the Air Force** above the president's budget request, for total spending in this fiscal year of \$8 million. These funds provide for the production of a new Integrated Flight and Fire Control Computer (IFFCC). The IFFCC is a critical component of the Air Force's aircraft modification process, which will result in significant savings in aircraft cost of ownership and cost to the taxpayers.
- **\$7 million for the Joint Engineering Data Management Information Control Systems (JEDMICS) program.** President Bush's budget had zeroed out funding for this program. JEDMICS is a Department of Defense automated system that allows a technician in a remote location to have access to engineering data in electronic formats without paper or manuals. The current system, however, has operational limitations that need to be resolved to improve access and expand functionality. An industry-sponsored demonstration site was established in Owego to develop and demonstrate the tools necessary to upgrade the JEDMICS program. The funding will allow Owego to improve the system, resulting in information cost savings to the Department of Defense.

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **4.6 percent pay raise for military personnel.** The bill provides a 4.6 percent pay raise for the nation's 1.3 million active duty personnel.